

Name: _____
Case #: _____
Date: _____

Child's Interview Tool

- **Assure the child you are concerned about their safety.**
- **Explain to the child that you understand this is scary and that you want to ask some questions about when their parent is being hurt.**
- **Explain to the child that you are interested in hearing what they think/feel about their home situation.**

A. Assessing the Child's Exposure to Violence:

1. What kinds of things do Mom and Dad (boyfriend, partner) fight about?

2. What happens when there is fighting?

3. Who does the yelling? ☐ Mom ☐ Dad ☐ Both ☐ Neither

4. Who does the hitting? ☐ Mom ☐ Dad ☐ Both ☐ Neither

If there is hitting, what is used to do the hitting?

5. What happens before the hitting usually starts?

6. What do you do when this is happening?

7. Have you ever been hit or hurt when the fighting is happening?

8. What happens after the fighting ends?

B. Assessing the Impact of the Violence on the Child:

1. Do you think about the fighting a lot? ☐ yes ☐ no
2. Do you think about it when you're at school or when you're playing? ☐ yes ☐ no
3. Do you ever have trouble sleeping at night? ☐ yes ☐ no
4. Are you afraid to be at home? ☐ yes ☐ no
5. Are you afraid to leave home? ☐ yes ☐ no
6. What makes you afraid?

7. Why do you think there is so much fighting?

8. How does the fighting make you feel?

9. What would you like to see happen to make it better?

10. What do you do when there is fighting?

- ☐ Stay in the same room the fight is in
- ☐ Leave/hide
- ☐ Run out/get someone
- ☐ Go to older or younger sibling
- ☐ Ask for it to stop
- ☐ Try to stop fighting
- ☐ Call 911
- ☐ Other

11. Have you talked to any other grownups about this problem? ☐ yes ☐ no

NOTES _____

Child's Interview Tool Procedures

Interview the children separately or in the presence of the non-offending parent/adult victim regarding their involvement and/or exposure to domestic violence, their general safety and well-being. Do not disclose information obtained from the mother or alleged perpetrator while interviewing the child. When interviewing children it is important to recognize that older children are more likely to minimize reports of parental fighting. Younger children may be more spontaneous and less guarded with the information they share.

When interviewing the child and assessing the impact of the violence, you should ensure the following topics are addressed:

- The child's story of the event, through play or artwork, if not verbally, as some children will not discuss their experiences.
- The meaning the child attaches to the event (what was the worst part of the experience for the child).
- How the child is coping since the violent episode
- The child's strengths

Which Cases:	All CPS maltreatment reports alleging domestic violence with a family caregiver. This tool complements the use of SDM tools and can be used as your interview documentation.
Who completes:	Social worker assigned to complete the investigative assessment.
When:	This interview tool shall be completed as early as possible in the investigative assessment. In order to meet initiation requirements, you must make face-to-face contact with the child. If you make the decision to delay the interview, document the steps taken to assess risk of harm to the child. Your interview with the child should occur in a place the child and adult victim identify as safe.
Decision:	The interview with the child is an integral part of your assessment and informs your decision-making. You will need to determine whether the child needs immediate intervention, suggest what short and long-term services the child needs, and determine whether visitation with the alleged perpetrator should be supervised or curtailed when the assessment indicates that continued visitation endangers the child physically or emotionally.